



King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls



February 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR

School Standards and Achievement

In the recently published Government Performance Tables for examination results in 2008, the School came top in the Performance Tables for Birmingham for the third year running. We were ranked 5th nationally for GCSE and 10th nationally for A level.

Staff News:

Miss Susan Preedy has been appointed as Assistant Head from April 2009. Miss Preedy is currently teaching History at this school and was formerly Deputy Head at St. Paul's School, London and Head at Ascham School, Australia.

Mrs Gillian Woolaway has been appointed as School Secretary following the retirement of Mrs Sue Cole after 24 years service to the school. We thank Mrs Cole for her work for the school.

Pupil Achievements:

Fundraising:

During the summer Olivia Deane, 11W, launched a campaign to raise money for the Air Ambulance Service. She produced a DVD of the West Midland Pony Club junior and senior summer camps, the sale of which raised £1343.00. She also persuaded local businesses to supply her with prizes for a raffle to be held at the end of the camps.

Earlier in the year Olivia had been to Microsoft UK on work experience and utilising their charity scheme the amount raised was doubled. A donation of £2686.00 was donated on behalf of the Pony Club to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance Service.

Well done Olivia.

British Tour Masters:

Celia Fraser, 12V, won an indoor series event in Leicester before Christmas and then competed in the Grand Masters at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton. She is already ranked inside the top 30 U18's in the country and would like to be in the top 15 by the summer.

Young Gifted & Talented Competition:

Henrietta Mosforth 8x and Emily Presswood 10X took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the YGT programme to participate in a national competition as advertised on the YGT web-site. Henrietta was one of the winners selected at KS3 and Emily was one of the winners at KS4. Their prize was book tokens to the value of £100 each and £1000 worth of tokens for the school.

Congratulations on your achievement.

Climate Change Champion—Ziana Kotadia.

Ziana is encouraging people to recycle in 2009. During the holiday season thousands of tonnes of paper, plastic and glass were needlessly discarded particularly over the Christmas period when refuse collections became more irregular. She is eager to get the message to people to take items to local recycling points which will help to clear up mess and save the planet at the same time.

Easter Holiday: School closes on Friday 3rd April and re-opens on Monday 20th April

Looking ahead to events in February/March.

- 23rd Feb Teacher Day
- 25th Feb- Yr 12 Higher Education Conference.
- 26th Feb—'Natural High' - David Graham Drugs Awareness Tour for Yr7.
- 26th Feb—Yr13 Parents' Evening
- 4th March—Instrumental Parents' Evening 7-9pm.
- 4th March—Yr8 House matches
- 5th March—GCSE Dance trip to Hippodrome
- 10th March—Yr9 Tropical Science Day
- 13th March -Yr 12 RS Trip to Manchester
- 13th March—Yr11 Conference.
- 17th—20th March -Yr12 AS trip to Nettlecombe Court.
- 19th March—Red Nose Day—non uniform.
- 19th March—Yr9 Parents' and Options' Evening.
- 20th March—6th Form Conference in Birmingham.
- 24th—26th March 'Sweeney Todd' at Camp Hill Boys
- 25th March—Pupil Review Day—pm.
- 26th March—Pupil Review Day
- 27th March—House Fair.

Cultural Diversity Award

We are a GOLD Community – It's Official!!

Many visitors comment on Camp Hill's calm and harmonious environment and I can remember, even when I attended my initial interview here at Camp Hill, that I was struck by the rich cultural mix and happy, inclusive community; in fact it was one of the first – and perhaps the strongest – of my impressions of the school. When, in September 2007, soon after taking up my post as Deputy Head, The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) launched a new Quality Standard to accredit schools' commitment to community cohesion and cultural diversity, I knew immediately that we should be one of the first in the country to apply. The standard examines a school's provision in various areas, including the overall ethos, curriculum, achievement, staff and governors and parents and the wider community.

Over the next fifteen months, and with the help of several committed colleagues, I collated a portfolio of evidence for the benefit of external assessors, clearly showing what we do and how we demonstrate Camp Hill's special atmosphere. On 19th January, two assessors from the SSAT visited to validate that evidence during a series of rigorous interviews involving staff, students, parents and other members of our school community.

I am delighted to say that the assessors – just as I was and continue to be – were also struck by the school's special atmosphere and have recommended that we be awarded GOLD in the SSAT's Cultural Diversity Quality Standard.

The following are some extracts from their report:

The school "shows a commitment to awareness and celebration of cultural diversity."

The "school has a warm, welcoming and natural feel to it. The pupils work effectively, get on well together and are keen to communicate that they feel part of a very inclusive and supportive community."

"The school makes clear its positive view of cultural diversity to its parents/carers through the many articles in the school newsletter. These include a focus on charity events for example: Schools for Africa; Birmingham Book Festivals; Woman of the Month; Bhangra Dance workshops and educational visits abroad. The school organises multicultural events such as The Evening of Dance, Christmas concerts and The Global Storytelling Programme. Parents are involved in the life of the school in a number of ways and these include involvement in mock interviews with Year 13 pupils, running extra-curricular activities and the PTA.

Members of the community from different cultural backgrounds come into school to give assemblies, lead a Religious Studies conference and engage the students in discussions and debates on different faiths and beliefs."

We are extremely proud to be one of the first schools to receive this nationally recognised award. It is welcome recognition of all that we do here to promote a cohesive community.

Ms Owens
Deputy Head

Staff Professional Development

February 23rd will be a joint training day with Sutton Coldfield Girls' High School and Queen Mary's High School for Girls. The day will consist of a keynote presentation by Graham Powell followed by good practice workshops presented by staff from the three schools on teaching gifted and talented pupils. In the afternoon staff will have the opportunity to meet in subject departments to discuss good practice.

Dance Evening

Towards the end of the Autumn Term we held an evening of dance which covered all genres . Girls from all years took part and it was a most enjoyable evening.

Year 9 Day of Dance

This was a cultural day of dance and exercise activities where all pupils in Year 9 were involved in workshops on:

- Cheerleading—creative stunts and an opportunity to learn chants
- Yoga—a relaxing session to test core strength
- Set study for GCSE Dance—an opportunity to experience the set dance for GCSE and introduction to contemporary style of dance
- Creative Choreography—a chance to explore and develop creative movement ideas
- Rock ‘n’ Roll—visiting instructor Jenny Bee delivered on lifts, throws and stepping patterns.

GCSE Poetry Live! at Symphony Hall

The English Department arranged for all of Year 11 to attend this year's *Poetry Live!* event at Symphony Hall on Friday 30 January. The day is an excellent learning opportunity for our students to see and hear live performances from a great selection of the poets they are studying for GCSE English and English Literature. The programme is carefully planned to be fast moving and provide variety. The readings are short (20 minutes the longest, many just 5 or 10 minutes) and there are question and answer sessions, which always add an interesting and unpredictable element to the day.

The morning featured three of the four poets studied for English Literature: Gillian Clarke, Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage. Each discussed their poems and gave stimulating insights into the way they write and their views about literature and language. Two special sessions were presented by one of AQA's Chief Examiners who commented in detail on a sample candidate's exam essay and gave valuable advice and tips for students as they prepare for their exams later this year. The afternoon brought excellent performances from poets studied in the "Different Cultures" component of the syllabus. Imtiaz Dharker was thought-provoking and strongly political in her approach, while the ever-popular John Agard held the 1,500 students in the auditorium spellbound with his word magic. A surprise appearance by up-and-coming poet Daljit Nagra stole the show, as he gave an entertaining and quick-fire performance of his poems exploring the perspective of a young British Asian on contemporary society.

The response to the event from the students was very positive and the experience of seeing and hearing live poetry at such an impressive event certainly helped us all to appreciate the power of language to shape and communicate human experience.

Mr J Clear

Trip to see *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*

Severe Weather Warning in Narnia!

80 students and staff enjoyed an evening out at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in January. The play was based on the children's book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and it was very interesting to see how this classic had been transferred to the stage; the sets were particularly effective and were inspired by the original illustrations. The mixed group of students from years 7-9 entered fully into the spirit of the evening and it was nice to go to the theatre just for fun!

Ms Whittington

'Lord of the Flies' Theatre Trip

Year 10 are currently studying *Lord of the Flies* in their English lessons so when we saw that The Curve Theatre in Leicester was staging a production of Golding's acclaimed novel, we simply had to get tickets!

On arrival we were wowed by the impressive building: outside lights that sang as we entered, a huge domed ceiling and a sweeping glass frontage that made us feel like we were in an art gallery rather than a theatre!

The production too did not disappoint. Directed by the Pilot Theatre Company's Marcus Romer, it was fast-paced and used staging and set cleverly to create the desert-island home of the band of British boys. With scenes of chanting, dancing, spear-fights and hunting, we were soon transported to the frightening world of the morally-degenerate boys.

The actor playing Piggy got the thumbs-up from all of us for his adherence to Golding's character, and the twins, Sam'n Eric, were a comic duo whose banter and timing conveyed their innocent fear and likability brilliantly.

We watched with solemnity the deaths of Piggy and Simon – and reflected on the irony of the final scene where a British Army officer berates the boys for the anarchy that was their 'game'.

Seeing the novel staged has certainly helped the girls reflect on its themes and message - and has generated much pertinent class-discussion as a result.

Many thanks to all parents collecting girls on our return; we really appreciated your promptness. And, huge thanks to the English department and Head of ICT, Mr Nick Frost, for giving up their evening to ensure the trip could go ahead.

Mrs J. Neal

Year 7: Published Poets!

Well done to thirty Year 7 girls whose poems about the environment have been selected for publication in an anthology of young writers' work entitled, *A World of Difference*.

The girls wrote their poems in October as part of their Enrichment English lessons. They listened to a recording of Michael Jackson's *Earth Song* and held a debate about the environmental issues they felt most strongly about. They then read a selection of different forms of poems such as sonnet, haiku and ballad and explored how different forms can create such varied effects.

After drafting, tweaking and polishing their poems, it was time to submit them and we were delighted to hear that so many had been selected for the anthology.

Each girl received a certificate from the organisers, *Young Writers*, and several copies of the anthology will be available in the school library in May.

Mrs J. Neal

Young Enterprise:

The **Christmas Fair** was very successful. The three groups had a variety of items ranging from personalised folders and books studded with gems, or decorated on the spot with a pattern of your choice, jewellery, hand made cards and pocket money toys. With the Christmas music playing the atmosphere had all the fun of any commercial fair!

Dragon's Day

Some of the YE students attended an enterprise day run with the Chamber of Commerce in Birmingham. It was run rather like 'Dragon's Den' and they had to make presentations based on their own enterprise to a number of managing directors of local companies. The directors gave them a lot of very useful advice regarding their product and marketing tactics in particular and really encouraged them in their venture.

Touchwood and Bull Ring

We hope to have stalls in these places on the 7th and 14th March. Do come and support the girls. They are also selling in school during lunchtimes so you all know where to come to buy your Valentine, Mother's Day and Easter cards and presents!

Bletchley Park:

As part of our Maths and Computing specialism, we offer the opportunity to study AS Computing in place of a GCSE option. More than seventy students are currently following this course. As a part of their studies, the Year 11 students went on a day trip to the National Codes Centre at Bletchley Park earlier this year.

Once we arrived at Bletchley we split into two groups. A presentation from one of their volunteer staff gave a potted history of the development of computers, and the opportunity to inspect ancient hardware including floppy disks the size of LP records, punched cards and paper tape.

Bletchley Park is full of old computer equipment, with rooms set up to represent the equipment available at different times. A hands-on computer museum gave us a chance to use (break!) computers from the late seventies onwards, and we played some 'classic' games. They also had a modern flight simulator and a working simulation of the software used in modern air-traffic control.

A third activity gave us a chance to see the Colossus machine in operation. This was used during the 2nd world war to crack enemy ciphers (codes), including those of the famous 'Enigma' machines, and was one of the first computers. Even today it is still surprisingly fast, although it is only really capable of one task.

The Colossus machines were all destroyed at Churchill's orders at the end of the war, along with designs and drawings, but volunteers spent more than 15 years successfully rebuilding one to a working state.

The site also has a museum explaining how the ciphers worked, the mathematics behind the work done, the people involved (many of whom were Polish mathematicians) and the lives led by the staff at the site. Bletchley was one of the sites where women were employed in their own right, and not just to fill in for missing men. Workers respected the secrecy of the work so much that one couple only discovered they had both worked there after more than fifty years of marriage!

Bletchley Park offers insights into the past, present and future of Information Technology. Having been once, we now have a better feel for the kind of activities on offer there, and hope to repeat the experience for this year's Year 10 students later in the year.

If any parents work in the world of IT and would be prepared to share their experience with us or assist with work experience placements for those interested in possible IT-related careers then please contact Mr Frost (njf@kegschg.bham.sch.uk).

The Connexions Service

My name is Fiona Wright and I am a Connexions Personal Adviser based at the Connexions Centre on Kings Heath High Street. Connexions is a service for all young people aged 13-19. This is extended up to the age of 25 for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

I am linked to King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls. Pupils in each year group can have access to the support that I offer:

In **Year 9** I contribute to the PHSE programme by conducting a one-hour session on effective decision-making and how subjects relate to jobs, not just in terms of knowledge developed but also skill acquisition. These sessions take place in February and March and tie in with option choice deadlines.

In **Year 10** I contribute to PHSE through delivery of a one-hour session on recent and predicted changes in the labour market and the importance of being equipped for the world of work by developing a range of skills in addition to gaining academic qualifications. These sessions run from November to March.

All **Year 11** girls have a one-to-one or group careers interview between September and the end of February. These interviews result in a Careers Action Plan listing the activities that pupils need to undertake in order to implement their ideas.

Year 12 and **Year 13** students can opt to have a careers interview on a self-referral basis.

The following websites are a useful source of information for supporting your daughter with her career learning:

<http://www.connexions-direct.com/parentcarer/> - an overview of education reforms and information on helping your child to make career and learning choices in Year 9, Year 11 and post-18, information can be downloaded in community languages

<http://www.connexions-bs.co.uk/main.php?section=222> - information about the Connexions Service, what we do in Birmingham, a guide to choices facing young people from Year 9 onwards, links to other websites and helpline information for support with a range of issues

www.direct.gov.uk/en/parents - advice on a range of issues

<http://www.sectorcareersinfo.co.uk/> for labour market information on sector careers

<http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/> for pay scale information and up-to-date occupational information

www.youchoose14-19.co.uk (the Local Area Prospectus) - this website features a database of courses for 14-19 year olds in the Birmingham and Solihull area

Please contact me if you would like further information on Connexions and how I can support your daughter:

fiona.wright@connexions-bs.co.uk tel. 0121 248 7201

Oxfam Unwrapped: December 2008

Thank you to everyone in the school who contributed this year to the Oxfam Unwrapped scheme. Every tutor group in the school took part and together the amount raised was a staggering £1,127.75. This is an amazing effort especially considering the amount of other charities that the school supports in many different ways. I am also very grateful to the sixth formers who helped me to collect money from each individual class.

Mr P. Cox

7W	68.46	Safe water for 12, provide shelter in an emergency and the money to fix a well
7X	37.60	2 sets of health checks and a goat
7Y	22.44	Safe water for 12 and a goat
7Z	108.10	1 set of health check ups, 2 goats, 8 books, animal care, animal house and food and safe water for 12
8W	17.24	Safe water for 12 and a set of health check ups
8X	18.85	Rainwater tank
8Y	39.59	2 sets of health check ups and the money to fix a well
8Z	75.61	Care for a vulnerable child and a goat
9V	14.55	Rainwater tank
9W	48.93	Condoms, mosquito nets and a set of health check ups
9X	14.85	2 sets of health check ups
9Y	20.42	Rainwater tank
9Z	23.90	condoms
10V	8.00	8 books for school
10W	37.00	Safe water for 12 and teach a teacher
10X	15.28	Tools and training to sell better coffee
10Y	31.81	Tools for farming
10Z	86.76	6 sets of health check ups and care for a vulnerable child
11V	27.82	Safe water for 12 and mosquito nets
11W	17.85	Tools for framing
11X	12.50	Home improvements
11Y	14.00	Tools for farming
11Z	25.00	A goat
12U	25.16	Safe water for 12 and sending a girl to school
12V	14.07	Mosquito nets
12W	15.00	Mosquito nets
12X	20.09	The plantation of an allotment
12Y	20.24	5 bags of seeds and fixing a well
12Z	44.10	Safe water for 12, 5 bags of seeds and a goat
13U	24.01	8 books for school and sending a girl to school
13V	44.01	Safe water for 12, 5 bags of seeds and a goat
13W	41.33	Fixing a well
13X	25.06	A goat
13Y	26.00	Fixing a well
13Z	42.12	Safe water for 12, radio communication and sending a girl to school

Birmingham University:

A group of MEd students from a range of different countries visited the school in November to observe lessons and to discuss leadership.

Tinsel Day:

This annual event was held again on 18th December and was enjoyed by everyone. The total raised for charity was £371.02.

Cecily's Fund

A non-uniform day raised £ 795.15 to educate children orphaned by AIDS in Zambia.

Sports News:**Key Stage 4 Badminton**

The Key Stage 4 badminton team competed in the school Sports Partnership competition against Bishop Challoner and Swanshurst School. As overall winners of the event they went on to compete in the Birmingham City Championships for Schools on the 27th January 2009.

Here, the team played a number of singles and doubles games and remained unbeaten throughout.

Opponents	Thomas Aquinas	Selly Park	Sutton Coldfield Grammar	KE Handsworth
1: Singles 1	Won 21-3	Won 21-7	Won 21-7	Won 21-3
2: Doubles 1	Won 21-7	Won 21-8	Won 21-3	Won 21-10
3: Singles 2	Won 21-3	Won 21-3	Won 21-4	Won 21-1
4: Doubles 2	Won 21-7	Won 21-4	Won 21-2	Won 21-3
5: Doubles 3	Won 21-6	Won 21-7	Won 21-11	Won 21-14

As Birmingham City Schools Champions, they have now qualified for the West Midlands Regional Finals to be held on Tuesday 24th February at Fenton Manor Sports Complex in Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire.

Many congratulations to the team

Hattie Wu
Helen Duan
Misha Sebastian
Riona Chaudry

Junior Netball Organisers' Award

Ten year 8 students have attended and successfully completed the Junior Netball Organisers' Award held recently at Camp Hill in partnership with Bishop Challoner and Swanshurst Schools.

This opportunity will be offered to 30 more Year 8 Camp Hill students on the following Wednesdays from 3.45 – 5.00pm in the school sports hall.

Wednesday 4th March
Wednesday 11th March
Wednesday 18th March

If any year 8 students are particularly interested in this course please see a member of the PE department to sign up for the course.

Sports News:

Year 7 House Matches

Despite the inclement weather more recently, all pupils in year 7 took part in their Winter House Matches, where each individual chose to be involved in one of the following activities; team relays, dance, indoor rowing or skipping.

Results

Positions	Team Relays	Dance	Indoor Rowing	Skipping	Overall
1 st	Cartland	Stratford	Lichfield	Stratford	Lichfield
2 nd	Lichfield	Cartland	Warwick	Lichfield	Stratford
3 rd	Meriden	Priory	Cartland	Meriden	Cartland
4 th	Stratford	Lichfield	Stratford	Cartland	Warwick
5 th	W Warwick	Warwick	Priory	Priory	Meriden
6 th	Priory	Meriden	Meriden	Warwick	Priory

Well done to year 7 for entering into the spirit of House sport. Look out later on in the school year for the swimming gala, tennis and rounders house matches, as well as sports day.

U16 & U19 Netball

Having won the County Championships earlier in the school year, these two teams had a very early start on Saturday 17th January 2009 as they departed for the Schools Regional Netball Tournament held at Manor Foundation School. A full day of competitive matches resulted in the teams finishing in 5th and 6th positions respectively. Well done to all players!

U19

Layla Guscoth 12W
 Sophie Brown 13Y
 Alex Lawrence 12U
 Mollie Routledge 13U
 Tamar Loach 13V
 Charlotte Roye 12V
 Rosie Rakhshafar 12U
 Alex Chadbone 11W

U16

Josephine Paul 10W
 Lydia Murphy 10Y
 Amy Jones-Morris 10V
 Alice Welch 10Y
 Jamie Chew 11V
 Rebecca Simon 10Y
 Charmel Khajavi 11V
 Abbie Romano 10Y
 Risha Chohan 10Y

The PE Department, along with the players, would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Jennifer Paul; for her continued support in coaching the teams towards their achievements this season.

Primary Partnership Competitions:

Camp Hill Girls' School will be hosting Primary Partnership Competitions:

Tuesday 3rd March —KS2 Dance competition 3.45—5.30pm
 Thursday 26th March —Year 5/6 Netball Festival 3.30—5.00pm
 Friday 19th June —Year 5/6 Rounders Festival 10.30am—12.30pm.

Year 7 & 8 Swimming Gala

On Friday 23rd January our school held a Year 7 and Year 8 Swimming Gala, organised by Year 10 students in Junior Sports Leadership Award. We both volunteered to organise, promote and run the Gala itself, along side some well needed help from the PE staff. Many girls did sign up for our Gala, and with a little persuasion from pleas in assemblies, many house teams slowly grew. In addition to this we would like to say a big thank you to one Year 7 house in particular, Cartland, who managed to fill up their entire team sheet in a matter of a couple of days! During the Gala, all the races were highly contested and all of the teams were neck and neck, which continued until the very last race. After working out the final score, there was just one point separating 1st and 2nd place. The final scores were:

1st Cartland 161	4th Meriden 159
2nd Warwick 160	5th Priory 159
3rd Lichfield 160	6th Stratford 134

We would just like to finally say a big you to all of the Year 10, volunteer sixth formers, and of course all the swimmers who took part and last but definitely not least, all of the PE staff—Mrs O’Grady, Miss Stokes and Miss Chapman, in making this Gala so successful.

Abbie Romano and Emma Hodgkinson 10Y

Year 9 House Results

Position	Skipping	Football	Dance	Rowing
1st	Priory	Warwick	Priory	Cartland
2nd	Stratford	Cartland	Meriden and Stratford	Meriden
3rd	Cartland	Lichfield	Cartland	Warwick
4th	Meriden	Meriden	Lichfield and Warwick	Priory
5th	Warwick	Priory		Stratford
6th	Lichfield	Stratford		Lichfield

Overall Final Positions	House	Points
1st	Cartland	19
2nd	Priory	17
3rd	Meriden	16
4th	Warwick	15
5th	Stratford	13
6th	Lichfield	9